Cyanide	absent
Lead (as Pb) mg/l (not more than)	0.05
Chromium (as Cr)—mg/l (not more than)	0.05
Mineral Oil	absent
Chlorides (as Cl)—mg/l (not more than)	2200
Sulphates (SO 4)—mg/l (not more than)	250
Alkalinity (as HCO 3)—mg/l (not more than)	600
Yeast & mould count	absent
E. coli	absent
Salmonella and Shigella	absent
Clostridium Welchi, C. Botulinum	absent
Bacillus cereus	absent
Vibreo cholerae and V. Parahaemolyticus	

Outbreak of T.B. in the country

210. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an outbreak of T. B. in some parts of the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for which this silent killer is increasing fast, despite steep increase in the funds for T.B. Eradication Programme, 90 crores this year; and

(d) the details of the emergency plan, the Government have, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Illness Assistance Fund

211. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Illness Assistance Fund has been astablished;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many persons have received assistance from this fund since its creation and on what grounds; and

(d) what is the procedure for getting help from this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Please see Statement enclosed (*see below*)

(c) The fund has been set up recently and the applications received for direct financial assistance are under scrutiny.

(d) Please see Statement enclosed (*see below*).

Statement

Details of National Illness Assistance Fund

(b) National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) has been set up vide Ministry of Health & F.W. Resolution dated 15.1.97 which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part I Section I (No. 9). It has been provided in this scheme that every State/UT (with Legislature) may set up an Illness Assistance Fund which shall be a registered society. The donation received by this society from State Govt./UT Admn. will be supplemented by a Grant-in-aid from Central Govt. to the extent of 50% of the

contribution made by the State Govt./UT subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crores for states which have a larger proportion of population living below poverty line and Rs. 2 crores for other States/UTs. The poverty line shall be as defined by the Planning Commission. The fund could also be subscribed by individuals, corporate bodies and other National/International philanthropic organisations. The contribution received by this fund would be exempt from payment of income tax under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The accounts of the society would be audited by AG of the State/UT every year.

This fund would release financial assistance to patient below poverty line in India suffering from life threatening diseases for undergoing medical treatment of any of the super speciality Hospital/ Institutes or other Govt./Private Hospitals participating in the scheme. The assistance will be in the form of a one time grant which will be released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, in which the treatment has been received.

A provision of Rs. 25 crores has been made in the budget grant of Ministry of Health & FW during 1996-97 for release of grant in aid to State/UT. A similar amount has been provided in the 1997-98 budget also.

It has also been decided that National Illness Assistance Fund should be set up with an initial donation from Ministry of Health and F.W. of Rs. 5 crores. This fund would also be subscribed by individuals corporate bodies and Non-corporate bodies. The contribution made to this fund will also be exempt from payment of Income-Tax under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The management Committee of NIAF will be chaired by Union Health Minister. The NIFA will be a registered society and its accounts will be subject to audit by C&AG every year.

Whereas the quantum of financial assistance to a poor patient is less than Rs. 15 lakhs, the release will be done by the fund at the State/UT level and if the quantum of assistance is in excess of Rs. 1.5 lakhs in an individual case, the case will be recommended to NIAF at the Centre.

NIAF will decide about the budget outlay for grant of similar assistance to be released to such population living in the UTs without legislature.

(d) Applications for necessary assistance under this scheme can be addressed to the Illness Assistance fund of the repsective States/UTs or NIAF. The applicant has to apply to state Govt. to which he belongs alongwith the estimate of the expenditure of the illness from the Hospital where the treatment is being received or will be received and a certificate of his proof of income duly certified by the competent authority of the State. The state illness fund will examine the case and will process it in case the expenditure is within Rs. 1.50 lakhs in each case. In case it exceeds this limit it will be forwarded to the Central Govt. along with their recommendations for processing the case under NIAF.

Typhoid vaccine manufactured by Haffkine Institute

212. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Health had informed some time ago the Haffkine Institute/Biopharmaceutical Corporation Mumbai not to manufacture Typhoid vaccine;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether government are aware that the Typhoid vaccine manufactured by Haffkine was costing a few paisa per vaccine, compared to the very costly vaccines available in the market; and